

# ORIGIN OF COUNTY NAMES IN FLORIDA

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The following article indicates briefly the origin of the names given to the various counties of the state of Florida. So far as possible the reason for the name is given, as well as its origin. In instances where counties were named for men of national prominence there is often no apparent significance except the desire to honor the memory of a national hero. Such is the case in the naming of the counties of Washington, Franklin, Hamilton, Clay, Polk, Calhoun, DeSoto, Hernando and Leon. No attempt has been made to supply data relating to persons of eminent national reputation whose careers are familiar to all.

The number preceding the name of the county indicates the chronological order of its establishment, and the data following is that of its establishment. The total number of counties in Florida (in 1903) is forty-six.

6. Alachua. December 29, 1824. From a Creek Indian word meaning "grass" or "meadow."

35. Baker. February 8, 1861. Named for James McNair Baker (1822-1892), judge fourth judicial district of Florida, and Confederate states senator, 1862-65.

35. Bradford. December 21, 1858. Named for Captain Bradford, the first Florida officer killed in the Civil war, who fell in the battle on Santa Rosa Island, western Florida, October 9, 1861. This county was originally named New County, the name being changed to Bradford, December 6, 1861.

25. Brevard. March 14, 1844. Named for Theodore Washington Brevard (1804-1877). Native of North Carolina, and one of the distinguished family of that name there; removed to Florida, 1847; comptroller of the state, 1853 to 1861. The county was originally named St. Lucie, the name being changed to Brevard, January 6, 1855.

20. Calhoun. January 26, 1838. Named for John Caldwell Calhoun, United States senator from South Carolina at the time the county was established. Then at the height of his popularity as the champion of the doctrine of states' rights.

44. Citrus. June 2, 1887. Named as an indication of the abundance of citrus fruit groves in the county.

36. Clay. December 31, 1858. Named for Henry Clay.

16. Columbia. February 4, 1832. From the poetical name for the United States.

19. Dade. February 4, 1826. Named for Francis Langhorne Dade, Major United States army, soldier in the second Seminole Indian war. Killed near Fort King, Florida, December 28,

1835. All visitors to West Point N. Y., will remember the beautiful Dade monument there, on which are inscribed the names of the fallen officers, and the simple yet eloquent line: "All of the detachment save three fell without an attempt to retreat."

40. DeSoto. May 9, 1887. Named for Hernando DeSoto, the Spanish explorer of Florida. Hernando County is named after the same man. A unique instance of the name.

4. Duval. August 12, 1822. Named for William Pope Duval (1784-1854), territorial governor of Florida, 1822-34.

1. Escambia. July 21, 1821. Named from Escambia river, which probably derived its name from the Spanish word, "to barter."

17. Franklin. February 8, 1832. Named for Benjamin Franklin.

5. Gadsden. June 24, 1823. Named for James Gadsden (1788-1858), American diplomatist. Native of Charleston, S. C. In 1818, as aide-de-camp to General Jackson, he took part in the campaign against the Seminole Indians, later becoming prominent in this war. His career as a diplomatist was subsequent to the naming of this county.

14. Hamilton. December 26, 1827. Named for Alexander Hamilton.

22. Hernando. February 24, 1843. Named for Hernando deSoto, after whom DeSoto county was also named.

18. Hillsborough. January 25, 1834. Named for Wills Hill, second Viscount Hillsborough (1718-1793). The Earl of Hillsborough, during the English occupation of Florida (1763-1783), received a large grant of land in Florida and was much interested in the development of the province.

27. Holmes. January 8, 1848. Named for Holmes Creek, the eastern boundary of the county, which in turn was named from Holmes Valley, which received its name either from an Indian chief or from the English name of Holmes, or else from one Thomas J. Holmes, who settled in that vicinity from North Carolina about 1820 or '34.

3. Jackson. August 12, 1822. Named for Andrew Jackson, governor of the territory of Florida, 1821-22, previous to that time active in the Seminole Indian wars in the territory. This county was named after Jackson before he became president, as the date of its establishment shows.

13. Jefferson. January 20, 1827. Named for Thomas Jefferson, president, who died July 4th of the year following the establishment of the county.

33. Lafayette. December 23, 1856. Named for the Marquis de Lafayette. Congress granted him a township of land in Florida lying just east of Tallahassee, in token of gratitude for his services, and though he never visited Florida, he took an interest in the territory and sent thither many French emigrants.

43. Lake. May 27, 1887. Named for the large number of its beautiful lakes.

42. Lee. May 13, 1887. Named for Gen. Robert E. Lee.

7. Leon. December 29, 1824. Named for Juan Ponce de Leon, discoverer of Florida.

26. Levy. March 10, 1845. Named for David Levy Yulee (1811-1886), territorial delegate to U. S. congress from Florida, 1841-45, the latter date being that on which Florida was admitted to statehood. U. S. senator from Florida, 1845-51, and 1855-61, when he retired to join the Southern Confederacy. His name was originally David Levy, but in 1845 he adopted the name of his grandfather, Yulee.

32. Liberty. December 15, 1855. Named to voice the sentiment of the American people.

15. Madison. December 26, 1827. Named for James Madison, president, the county being largely settled by Virginia colonists.

31. Manatee. January 9, 1855. Named from the manatee, or sea cow, found in the waters of its coast, and nowhere in the United States, except in Florida.

24. Marion. March 14, 1844. Named for General Francis Marion. The county was largely settled by emigrants from South Carolina.

8. Monroe. December 29, 1824. Named for James Monroe, president of the United States at the time the county was established.

10. Nassau. December 29, 1824. Probably named from Nassau, the principal town of the Bahama Islands, as many emigrants came from the Bahamas to this section during the English occupation of Florida. An unique instance of an English name given American territory after the war of 1812.

9. Orange. December 24, 1824. Named from the abundant orange groves in the county. Originally named Mosquito county. Changed to Orange January 30, 1845.

41. Osceola. May 12, 1887. Named from the famous chief of the Seminole Indians, who was kidnapped by General Jesup, near St. Augustine, in October, 1837, and died in confinement at Fort Moultrie, S. C., January, 1839.

45. Pasco. June 2, 1887. Named for Samuel Pasco (born 1834), U. S. senator from Florida, who was speaker of the Florida house of representatives when the county was established, and who had also been elected U. S. senator.

39. Polk. February 8, 1861. Named for James K. Polk, president.

28. Putnam. January 13, 1849. Named for Benjamin A. Putnam, a resident of St. Augustine, prominent lawyer, officer in the second Seminole Indian war.

2. St. Johns. July 21, 1821. Named from the St. Johns river, called by the Spanish discoverers San Juan Bautista, from the saint's day upon which it was discovered.

46. St. Lucie. July 1, 1905. Named for St. Lucy, of Syracuse, saint of the Roman Catholic church. Name first given to a fort built by the Spanish near Cape Canaveral, 1565.

21. Santa Rosa. February 18, 1842. Named for St. Rosa, of Viterbo, saint of the Roman Catholic church. Name was probably first given to Santa Rosa Island.

29. Sumter. January 8, 1853. Named for Gen. Thomas Sumter (1736-1832), patriot officer in the revolutionary army, prominent in the southern campaign. He was a native of South Carolina, and the last surviving general officer of the revolutionary army. This county was largely settled by emigrants from South Carolina.

37. Suwannee. December 21, 1858. From an Indian word, suwan, meaning "echo river." One of the few counties in the United States whose name has been immortalized in song.

34. Taylor. December 23, 1856. Named for Zachary Taylor, president, prominent in the second Seminole Indian war, defeating the Indians in the decisive battle of Okeechobee, for which he received the brevet of brigadier-general, and in 1838 the chief command in Florida.

30. Volusia. December 29, 1854. Named from a settlement within its limits supposed to have been named from one Volus, an English settler.

23. Wakulla. March 11, 1843. Named from an Indian word meaning "mystery," applied to the famous spring within its limits.

11. Walton. December 29, 1824. Named for Colonel George Walton, secretary of West Florida during the territorial governorship of Andrew Jackson, 1821-22, and secretary of the entire territory, 1822-26. Son of George Walton, governor of Georgia and signer of the declaration of independence. Tallahassee (meaning beautiful land) was so named by Walton's daughter, Octavia.

12. Washington. December 29, 1824. Named for George Washington.

Wakulla Spring. "The springs of Florida are indeed among its most peculiar and attractive features. Wakulla fountain surpasses the others in every particular, and will hereafter live in my memory with the Saguenay River, Niagara Falls, the Mammoth Cave, and Tallahassee. An adequate idea of it cannot be given by pen or pencil; but when once seen, on a bright, calm day, it must ever after be a thing to dream about and love. It is the fountain-head of a river, and wells up in the very heart of a dense cypress swamp, is nearly round, measures some four hundred feet in diameter and about a hundred and fifty feet in depth, having at its bottom an immense horizontal chasm, with a dark portal, from one side of which looms up a limestone cliff, the summit of which is itself nearly fifty feet beneath the spectator in a boat. The water is so astonishingly clear that even a pin can be seen on the bottom in the deepest places, and as you look perpendicularly into it it is as colorless as air, and the sensation of floating upon it is that of being suspended in a balloon. That the ancient Seminoles should have attached a legend to this, the brightest spot in their domain, was quite natural. At night, said they, may be seen around the shores and on the bottom of the fountain tiny fairy creatures, sporting and bathing, in noiseless glees; but at midnight when the moon is at its zenith there appears upon the water a gigantic warrior, sitting in a stone canoe, with a copper paddle in his hand, from whose presence the affrighted fairies flee away, leaving as the last object seen in the darkness of a cloud the spectre warrior alone in his canoe, which seems anchored and immovable."

Charles Lauman, "Adventures in the Wilds of America" (1856), Vol. II, p. 143.

Railroad fares refunded to and from Pensacola to purchasers of Pianos at the Clutter Music House. Prices on Pianos, special, \$187 to \$850. On Organs, \$19 up.

Midwinter's Coronation Day. That first Christmas was the month's coronation day. Each recurring Christmas perpetuates the memory of our great glory. In public and in private celebrations of it, hers should be the central figure. Solemn gladness akin to the Creator's satisfaction: it is "very good" work should fill her soul.

In Mr. Harrison S. Morris' beautiful poem, "Incarnation," we read how a laborer, laden with "a tray of tools, a timbered frame," walked in the sunshine through a city street—

Nor knew that out of myriads one Beside him saw a shadow run That clasped the centuries in its shade.

But, like a loving spirit, there, In even footfall at his side, A shadow walked the pavement wide With bended head and humble pride And angled cross against the air.

It was as if the dateless sun Forgot the years, the far shade, And, lo, upon the sordid road, The cross worn Nazarene trade, Holding the journey never done.

Every mother who holds her baby in her arms repeats, unconsciously or consciously, the story of the incarnation. The blessed shadow "clasps the centuries," past, present and to come, and eternally itself "in its shade."—Marion Harland in Independent.

The Navy's Christmas. Christmas in the regular navy is observed as one of the big holidays of the year. Starting off with a grand dinner in the middle of the day, discipline is from then on relaxed, and the fun is fast and furious till sundown, and often the evening is enlivened by amateur theatricals. The vessel is gayly decorated with bunting, and at each mast-head and at the bow and stern green trees are lashed if procurable.



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## In the Old "Sailing" Days

By J. L. Beirne

Within the past five years considerable change has taken place among the large fleet of sailing boats owned and operated for profit and pleasure on Pensacola Bay. In the numerous bayous and tributaries to that great body of water. Previous to the time mentioned above, nearly all the small boats were fitted with sails as a motive power, but that method of forcing the small craft through the water has been, in a majority of instances, supplanted by gasoline engines, ranging from 1-2 to 50 horse-power.

The days of an exciting "sail" on the bay are now only recalled as pleasant memories among the numerous owners of small boats—referred to by them and their associates as the days when we "put her through," seated on out-riggers and with sand-bags on the windward side. A trip across or up the bay on those days was not without mentioning unless some daring and hair-raising incident occurred on the way, going or returning. It was, apparently, absolutely a part of the voyage that the last ones to make the trip should return with a more exciting account of the trip than the one before.

The fact that the boat in which the trip was to be made was a frail one did not enter into the conversation concerning the experiences encountered—the main thing was how did those on board act at the time when the boat's leeward rail was under the water; did the man at the wheel become frightened, and run her up in the wind, instead of trying to force the lower rail further under; did anyone look white under the gills or squeak in fear that the boat would be capsized; did any of them take a long breath and look pale when she was jibed, or yell "look out" when she was run close to another boat or near any object in the water.

Was Object of Pity. Pity the fellow who was guilty of any of the charges named above! He was looked upon by his friends as a coward and his invitations to join boat parties on a trip grew less. He was called a fresh water sailor and recommended as one fit to be the captain of a timber raft or to be placed in command of a gondola on a merry-go-round. He was sneered and jeered at by the more brave ones and was soon regarded by the rest of the crowd as being a member of the chicken-hearted gang who were, in addition to the various other names, called "bath tub" canners. The brave ones even went so far in poking fun at the "scarer" fellows as to say they would not enter a bath tub without being equipped with a life-preserver as large as a cart wheel.

They were always welcome among the heroes who never feared old Nep-

him. He was "dead to the world." The balance of the crowd, knowing that he would need cover on account of the severe cold weather, proceeded to cover him. They did the job in a manner which they thought proper, the two blankets which they placed over him being well soaked in the bay. The balance of the party made

the trip over the bay, while the other fellow spent the night and part of the next day under two wet blankets.

Had a Close Call. Mrs. Ada L. Croom, the widely known proprietor of the Croom Hotel, Vaughn, Miss., says: "For several months I suffered with a severe cough, and consumption seemed to have its grip on me, when a friend recommended Dr. King's New Discovery. I began taking it, and three bottles effected a complete cure." The fame of this life saving cough and cold remedy, and lung and throat healer is world wide. Sold at all druggists, 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

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